GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:76
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2016
Agricultural Universities
Singh Shri Ravneet

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the performance of ICAR's Institutes/Agricultural Universities and if so, the outcome thereof;

(b) the funds sanctioned and utilised by various agricultural universities including Punjab Agriculture University during each of the last three years;

(c) the major researches undertaken by these universities during the said period;

(d) the outcome of these researches and the number of new technologies/seeds etc. evolved successfully and used in the fields by the farmers during the above period; and

(e) the steps taken for the development and promotion of agricultural universities in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) to (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 76 TO BE ANSWERED ON 01/03/2016 REGARDING "AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITIES"

(a) Yes, Madam.

Robust monitoring and review system for Agricultural Universities is in place and monitoring is done regularly by following mechanisms:

1) West and Central Zone have been constituted with the approval of the competent authority to review and assess the impact of XII Plan scheme
2) DARE/ICAR has in-built system of undertaking appraisal and corrective measures Annual reports highlighting the achievements from the Universities
3) Regular visits of agricultural universities by ICAR officials
4) ICAR Nominee in Board of Management
5) Annual Vice Chancellors' Conference
6) Periodic Meetings of Deans
7) Periodic meets of the Comptrollers
8) Annual review Meetings of Niche Area of Excellence
9) Dynamic data management by National Information System on Agricultural Education Network in India (NISAGENET)
10) Oversight Committee visit and monitoring of special grants
11) Evaluation of effectiveness of training under capacity building Programmes.
12) Accreditation of the Universities for Quality Assurance and maintenance of standards.
13) Further, external independent committee constituted to review the progress of the utilization of the grants.

Five committees, one each for North, South, East for the implementation of the various research programmes/schemes under its umbrella.

The performance of the Research Institutes and Projects is regularly monitored and assessed through monthly, quarterly and annual progress reports (technical and financial). The monitoring of research programmes carried out in different institutes/research centers is also done by Quinquennial Review Team (QRT) constituted by ICAR after every five years, Research Advisory Council (RAC) and Institute Research Council (IRC) annually. These bodies evaluate the performance and suggest need based changes for the infrastructure development and thrust areas for research. The report of QRT is placed in the Governing body for approval. The report of RAC is approved by the DG, ICAR and the report of IRC is approved by the respective Director of the Institutes. More recently (2010 onwards) the Results Framework Document (RFD) system has also been introduced to effectively monitor the progress of various Institutes on the basis of assigned targets for the financial year. Based on the composite scores, they are rated from average to excellent. All the Institutes also have one Planning Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) Cell to prioritize, monitor and evaluate various

projects of the Institutes. The Institutes also have their own Citizens' Charters for transparency and delivery to the public and stakeholders.

The review mechanism has indicated following focused areas for strengthening.
1) Development of Infrastructure.
2) Need to have centralized admissions, through All India Entrance examination, at UG (15%) & PG (25%) level to encourage overall merit and national integration.
3) Providing fellowships to attract talented students.
4) Promotion of cutting edge research in the Agricultural Universities through funding.
5) Rural Agricultural Work Experience (RAWE) at the UG level encouraged to gain rural life work experience.
6) Higher provision for international fellowships for Ph.D for research in reputed global laboratories
7) Provision for faculty exchange and adjunct faculty to address the faculty shortage in Agricultural Universities.
8) Need to encouraged participation of girls in agricultural education and ensuring gender mainstreaming
9) To provide much-needed skill and developing entrepreneurship and building confidence among UG students, Experiential Learning modules established in Agricultural Universities.

For maintaining and upgrading quality and relevance of higher agricultural education, a centrally sponsored plan scheme "Strengthening and Development of Higher Agricultural Education in India", is being implemented. The Scheme strives to plan, undertake, aid, promote and coordinate agricultural education in the country with an aim to enhance the quality and relevance of higher agricultural education to address the emerging challenges in the agriculture sector for which catalytic financial support is provided to agricultural universities (AUs), under various components. To improve the quality of research and for attaining excellence in specific strategic areas in education and research and capacity building the universities are being supported in specific niche areas under the XII Plan Scheme "Strengthening and Development of Higher Agricultural Education in India".

(b) As such Central Government does not sanction any funds for SAUs as these are under the administrative control of respective State Government except two Central Agricultural Universities. However, funds are provided under a centrally sponsored plan scheme "Strengthening and Development of Higher Agricultural Education in India". During XII Plan, total outlay of Rs. 2900 Crore including PAU has been made out of which, an amount of Rs. 533.48, 385.59 and 376.07 have been released during the years 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 respectively. The Scheme strives to plan, undertake, aid, promote and coordinate agricultural education in the country with an aim to enhance the quality and relevance of higher agricultural education to address the emerging challenges in the agriculture sector for which catalytic financial support is provided to agricultural universities (AUs), under various components. Further, an amount of Rs. 10 Crore each was released for setting up of new Universities viz. Sri Konda Laxman Telangana State Horticultural University, Hyderabad (Telangana) and Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh) during 2014-15 and amount of Rs. 37.5 crore each during 2015-16. Also funds were released for infrastructural development to various Agricultural Universities in the Country.
Moreover, to improve the quality of research and for attaining excellence in specific strategic areas in education and research and capacity building the universities are also supported in specific niche areas under the XII Plan Scheme "Strengthening and Development of Higher Agricultural Education in India". The funds released for Niche Area of Excellence (NAE) during last three years including Punjab are given hereunder.

Table: Funds allocated to Agricultural Universities and PAU by ICAR during each of the previous three years (2012-13 upto 2014-15)

Name of the Scheme	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Development Grant	533.48	385.59	376.07
Niche Area of Excellence	31.21	18.94	20.94
AICRP	531.87	530.64	599.70
KVK	345.39	527.25	533.61
Total allocation	1441.95	1462.42	1530.32
Allocation to PAU Ludhiana during corresponding period	--	41.92	39.02

(c) The major research programmes that are under operation, funded by ICAR in niche areas for last three years at SAUs with ICAR are given as Annexure-I. Besides these ICAR has various commodity based 79 All India Coordinated Research Projects and Network Projects in collaborative mode with State Agricultural Universities (SAUs)to develop location-specific varieties/breeds and technologies as per the agro-ecological needs for enhancing the production and productivity.

(d) The outcome of these researches and the number of new technologies/seeds etc. evolved successfully and used in the fields by the farmers during the above period are given in Annexure II. The details of the crop varieties developed is given in Annexure III and the details of the breeders seed production figure in Annexure IV. The details of the ICAR funding from ICAR, major research programmes being run and the major research achievements in respect of PAU Ludhiana during past three years figures in Annexure V.

(e) For the development and promotion of agricultural university a Need based limited funding to Agricultural Universities (AUs) is done.

In this regard, a central sector Plan Scheme "Strengthening and Development of Higher Agricultural Education in India, with total approved outlay of 2900 crore "is being implemented to strengthen the agricultural universities. Need based limited part funding to Agricultural Universities (AUs), is done for strengthening of infrastructure and student amenities, strengthening and up-gradation of teaching and learning resources and excellence in teaching, research and capacity building through Niche Area of Excellence,

instilling confidence Experiential Learning, Rural Awareness Work Experience, capacity building of teachers, fellowships curriculum delivery and holistic development etc. Important issues recently addressed include; establishing new Universities/ colleges , providing central assistance for strengthening higher Agricultural Education, defining UG & PG degree for general market needs and for specialized jobs and uniformity, restructuring UG practical for increased practical and practice contents, guidelines for assessing the training needs and performance of teaching faculty and the reforms in Governance in SAUs. Salient details are given as follows.

New Infrastructure Developed:
â€¢ New Agricultural Universities/ Colleges have been established in states/regions where such strengthening was required. In this direction new IARI like institutes have been established in Jharkhand and Assam and new Agricultural and Horticultural Universities have been established in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana respectively. Six new agriculture colleges have also been started under Central Agriculture University, Imphal.

Human Resource Development
â€¢ Centralized admissions, through All India Entrance examination, at UG (15%) & PG (25%) level to encourage overall merit and national integration.
â€¢ Awarding Junior Research Fellowships (JRF) and Senior Research Fellowships to attract talented students.
â€¢ Capacity building of faculty of National Agricultural Research System (NARS) in Cutting-edge-areas through Centers of Advanced Faculty Training (CAFT)/Summer-Winter Schools (SWS). Incentive for quality teaching given in the form of best teacher award.
â€¢ Promoting excellence and novel school of thought by National Professors and National Fellows.
â€¢ Superannuated scientists engaged in addressing key issues through Emeritus Scientist scheme.
â€¢ Rural Agricultural Work Experience (RAWE) at the UG level encouraged to gain rural life work experience.
â€¢ International fellowships for Ph.D for research in reputed global laboratories with an objective to developed competent human resource and showcasing the strengths of ICAR-AUs System.
â€¢ Catalytic support for faculty exchange and adjunct faculty is being provided to address the faculty shortage in Agricultural Universities.

Educational Planning
â€¢ Strengthening and development of infrastructure of Agricultural Universities
â€¢ Encouraged and facilitated participation of girls in agricultural education and ensuring gender mainstreaming by supporting girls' hostels. In addition, support is also provided for boys' hostels in Agricultural Universities.
â€¢ Creation of educational museums in Agricultural Universities for showcasing of technologies.
â€¢ Support for modernizing and strengthening of academic facilities, laboratories, computer labs, internet connectivity, faculty improvement, course curriculum delivery, preparation of practical manuals, career placement and alumni interaction, smart classrooms for enhancing the quality of teaching, educational tours and contingency for practical learnings leading to improved/upgraded academic environment in Agricultural Universities.
â€¢ Holistic Development of students encouraged by providing funds to Agricultural Universities with focus on overall personality development and counseling with emphasis on extracurricular activities and refinement of soft skills.
â€¢ For excellence in teaching, research, consultancy and capacity building, niche area of excellence supported in specific cutting edge areas.
â€¢ To provide much-needed skill and developing entrepreneurship and building confidence among UG students, Experiential Learning modules established in Agricultural Universities.
â€¢ To enhance learning resources including writing of text books and preparation of quality instructional material and e-facilities, the libraries of Agricultural Universities and that of their constituent colleges strengthened benefiting the students across the country, leading to improved quality of postgraduate education and research.

Educational Quality Assurance and Reforms
â€¢ For improving educational standards and assuring an acceptable institutional quality, the accreditation of AUs and their constituent colleges is being done at regular intervals by an Accreditation Board established by the Council with well defined objectives and functions.
â€¢ To ensure uniformity of structure, governance and efficiency of the AUs the Model Act for AUs was prepared and has been revised in 2009.
â€¢ To keep pace with the ever changing scenario in agriculture the norms, standards and course curricula are updated and revised as per need by constitution of Dean's Committees from time to time.
â€¢ Research and instructional capabilities of farms are being strengthened by providing support for modernization of farms of the Agricultural Universities.

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